

To: Jill Myers, Town Manager

From: Marsha Petrillo, Director

Re: Senior Center Monthly Report

The Senior Center is pleased to submit the following report for the month of **February, 2008:**

**Monthly Statistical Data**

**Outreach Report**

|                                 |    |                          |     |
|---------------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----|
| Office Visits                   | 37 | Home Visits              | 3   |
| Nursing Home Visits             | 6  | Wakes & Funerals         | 4   |
| SMOC Recerts & New Applications | 6  | Telephone calls in & out | 116 |
| Medical APPTS.                  | 2  | SHINE Appts.             | 10  |
|                                 |    | CMAA Meeting             | 1   |

The following statistics represent the number of individuals using our transportation services, meals on wheels, luncheon attendance and attendance at our various programs and clubs for the month of **February 2008:**

|                             |          |  |              |
|-----------------------------|----------|--|--------------|
| Van Transportation          | 365      | Medical Transportation                     | 63           |
| AARP Tax Help               | 57       | Card Games/Pitch                           | 121          |
| Meals on Wheels Delivered   | 1,750    | Weekend meals/storm meals frozen delivered | 56           |
| Congregate Meals Served     | 407      | <b>Total Meals Served</b>                  | <b>2,213</b> |
| Cash Turnovers              | \$415.00 | Phone calls in & out                       | 774          |
| Guestbook                   | 561      | Super WalMart                              | 33           |
| Cards sent to elders        | 19       | Fallon Rep                                 | 7            |
| Vital Signs                 | 17       | Hannaford                                  | 83           |
| Lunch attendance            | 407      | CVS  | 33           |
| Bank/Other                  | 25       | Valentine Luncheon w/Taft School           | 83           |
| Computer Classes & walk ins | 29       | Norden Cemetery Lunch n Learn              | 30           |
| Senior Club                 | 27       | Triad Meeting                              | 7            |

**Building Maintenance Update**

Third quote from Bevilacqua for possible future paving project:

- ❑ \$11,600.00 - To include: rip up, remove existing asphalt & dispose. Remove inadequate sub-base (4" – 12" depth) & dispose. Replace inadequate sub-base with gravel. Grade for proper water run off. Compact with 5 ton double drum vibratory roller. Install 1.5" layer Hot Mix Binder Asphalt. Install 1.5" layer Hot Mix Topcoat Asphalt. Compact with 5 ton static roller.
- ❑ \$10,800.00 - If done with Fire Department.
- ❑ \$2,000.00 To remove three small trees and stump (optional)
- ❑ A police detail is required for public safety reasons and will be charged as an additional cost.

### **Building Demolition Update**

The COA Board and the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., are eager to garner support for the demolition of the vacant building located next to the Senior Center. With that in mind, they have asked the director to shepherd the project and summon quotes for such demolition. SOS Corp and Richard Hadley of TMC have been contacted in this regard.

Mike Robinson, Environmental Cleanup Specialist from NEDT, came by on February 20<sup>th</sup> to assess possible motor oil contamination levels in a pit formerly used to service cars as well as other possible asbestos and lead paint concerns. At first glance, Mike feels confident that the costs associated with the clean up will be minimal. He stated that the only asbestos appears to be around the old boiler in the back. The paint on the doors appears to be lead. The motor oil in the pit appears minimal. If the floor in the pit is cement, and the cement is in tact, the chance of ground contamination is reduced. If the integrity of the floor is compromised, Mike suggests that test borings may be necessary to rule out ground contamination.

Fire Chief Ostroskey, former Fire Chief Albin, and Captain Tancrell have confirmed there are no underground tanks on the premises.

The COA Board and the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc. believe the project is attainable in terms of funding and will enhance the downtown and create additional parking for the Center during normal business hours and for the community at large after hours and on the weekends.

### **Personnel Update**

Due to cuts in our operating budget for FY 09 we anticipate the following personnel changes:

Janitorial services will be cut from 15 hours per week to 10 hours per week beginning July 1. This represents a savings of \$3,510.00 for FY 09. We propose to cut back the hours of the van driver and the clerk position; from 19 hours to 16 hours per week. This will represent an additional savings of \$4,618.14. The Senior Center will not offer transportation services on Fridays and clerical help will no longer be available on Fridays beginning July 1. These cuts in personnel will allow the Senior Center to remain open five days per week and will not affect our Meals on Wheels partnership with Tri Valley,

Inc. We believe the proposed cuts will prove to have the least impact on our seniors and the community at large.

### **Vehicle Maintenance Report**

The Senior Center Ford Taurus was towed to Millville Gas on February 19<sup>th</sup> because the starter needed replacing. The vehicle was serviced and the bill in the amount of \$358.25 will be paid from the donations account. The COA van exhaust problem has been resolved and the system has been reinforced with new clamps to insure proper placement.

### **Worcester County Sheriff's Office TRIAD Meeting Update**

On Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am the Senior Center Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Chariman Woods and representatives from the Sheriff's Office met to discuss forming a TRIAD with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. TRIAD is a community policing initiative between seniors, law enforcement and service providers to increase safety through education and crime prevention. It goals are to reduce criminal activity which targets older Americans, to alleviate seniors' fear of victimization, build confidence, and improve the quality of life and enhance delivery of law enforcement services for our older citizens. Specifically, we the 911 Cell Phone Bank, iris scanning, TRIAD community road signs, as well as some of the programs the town currently offers such as the emergency key access program offered by the Uxbridge Fire Department and the RUOK program administered by the Uxbridge Police Department. It is the desire of the COA Board and the director to enter into an agreement with the Sheriff's Office, to officially become a member of Worcester County's TRIAD.

### **COA Building Use**

- ❑ Pitch Club Monday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 9:30 PM
- ❑ The NAMI Mental Health Support Group met on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>
- ❑ The UNNC Sunday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- ❑ COA Board Meeting – Tuesday, 2/5/08 @ 5PM
- ❑ Uxbridge Taxpayer's Association Weds., 2/13 @ 7 PM

### **Monthly Meetings Attended by Director:**

- ❑ Interagency Meeting at the Uxbridge Police Department Wednesday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9AM
- ❑ The Council on Aging Board at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

- ❑ Public Meeting and Workshop – Revitalizing Downtown Uxbridge: Planning Together @ Uxbridge Police Station – 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
- ❑ TRIAD Meeting w/Sheriff's Department Friday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:30 am @ UFD
- ❑ Staff Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 AM @ UPD
- ❑ CPR Recertification at UPD 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM Thursday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Free AARP TAX Help Offered**

The Uxbridge Senior Center will be offering free income tax return help and help applying for the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday beginning February 6<sup>th</sup> and running through April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Information on Stimulus Payments for Recipients of Social Security**

Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, more than 130 million American households will receive economic stimulus payments beginning in May. The only way to get stimulus payments is to file a federal tax return for 2007. This filing requirement also applies to seniors who do not normally file income taxes but are recipients of Social Security. We are especially concerned about seniors who may need to file in order to obtain a stimulus payment. These taxpayers will be eligible to receive a payment of \$300 (\$600 on a joint return) if they had at least \$3,000 of qualifying income. The Senior Center has plenty of Form 1040A forms and we encourage recipients of Social Security and Veterans' benefits who don't normally need to file to call upon us for assistance. The key line on the 1040A forms is line 14a. The IRS reminds taxpayers they can also use line 20a on Form 1040 to report their qualifying income. Taxpayers in this group must write the words "Stimulus Payment" at the top of the 1040A or 1040 form. For now, seniors filing for the stimulus payment can only file a paper copy of the Form 1040. The IRS is working to update its systems to accept electronic versions of these limited-information returns for taxpayers who otherwise have no need to file a tax return.

### **Warning—Scam Artists are Calling Taxpayers about the Stimulus Payments!**

If someone claiming to be from the IRS calls or e-mails you about the payments and asks you for a Social Security, bank account or credit card number, it's a scam! The scammers are trying to get your personal and financial information so they can empty your bank account, run up charges on your credit card and more. Find out more – See IR-2008-11, IRS Warns of New E-Mail and Telephone Scams Using the IRS Name.

### **About the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit:**

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2001, an owner or renter of a principal residence located in Massachusetts who is age 65 or older at the close of the taxable year may be eligible to claim a refundable credit against personal income taxes. Known as the "circuit breaker credit," this credit is based upon the actual real estate taxes or rent paid by a taxpayer eligible to claim the credit.

A Massachusetts taxpayer age 65 or older that owns or rents his or her principal residence may qualify for the circuit breaker credit if he or she meets the following eligibility requirements: For tax year 2007, the taxpayer's "total income" cannot exceed \$48,000 for a single individual who is not the head of a household, \$60,000 for a head of household, and \$72,000 for a husband and wife filing a joint return.

### **III. 2007 Assessed Valuation Threshold Amount for Homeowners**

For tax year 2007, the assessed valuation, before the residential exemptions but after abatements, of the homeowner's principal residence may not exceed \$772,000.

### **IV. Credit Available in 2007 for Renters and Homeowners**

The credit is equal to the amount by which 25% of the rent actually paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year for the occupancy of the principal residence exceeds 10% of the taxpayer's total income for the taxable year, provided that such amount does not exceed the maximum credit amount. For tax year 2007, the maximum credit amount is \$900.

The credit is equal to the amount by which the taxpayer's property tax payments in the current tax year, including water and sewer use charges paid to a municipality, but excluding any abatement or exemption granted, exceeds 10% of the taxpayer's total income, for the taxable year, provided that such amount does not exceed the maximum credit amount. For tax year 2007, the maximum credit amount is \$900.

This free service is available to Uxbridge residents. Please call Susan at the Senior Center at 508-278-8622 to make an appointment.

### **SMOC ~ FUEL ASSISTANCE**

The Uxbridge Senior Center is an official in-take site for fuel assistance. If you have any questions about the process, eligibility, or documents needed to accompany the application, we can help. Please call the Center @ 508-278-8622 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

### **Special Lunch n Learn Thursday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 am on the History of the Norden Cemetery**

The Uxbridge Senior Center hosted the Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee for a special "Lunch n Learn" presentation on the history of the Norden Cemetery & the Norden Society of Uxbridge & Millville. The Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee has been researching the Norden Cemetery and the families buried there for several years. The term "Norden" was often used to encompass the people from five countries: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. They have located some descendants and their families who have shared their knowledge and recollections of the cemetery. The Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee would like to share what they have learned and provide an opportunity for others to help reconstruct the history of the cemetery, the Norden Society and their association with the area churches and the U. S. Rubber Mill. Historic Cemetery Committee members Shelly Merriam, Sheryl Romasco, and Jill Kenrick on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:30am and bring any Norden-family history and photographs to share.

***“Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.” - Voltaire***

The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc. and the Uxbridge COA Board extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Hannaford Supermarket for their donations of candy and spring plants for our Valentine’s Day Party. We thank the children at Taft School, their teachers and the administrators for helping to make our party so memorable. Thank you for the lovely Valentines. We thank the 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Our Lady of the Valley School and several Brownie and Girl Scout troops for the beautiful hand crafted Valentines. Our community is enriched by your loving kindnesses.

**Membership Drive – People feel happiest when they belong!**

The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., invites you to become a member of their fundraising group. The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., is a non-profit, 501 C 3 organization which serves as the “Friends” group to the Uxbridge Senior Center. Membership in this organization is open to everyone interested in supporting the Uxbridge Senior Center. We invite family members, caregivers, business men and women, young adults and all interested individuals to join The Elderly Connection, Inc. Membership is \$2 per year and will help support the Uxbridge Senior Center.

**DONATION REMINDER:**

The Upanishads, ancient scriptures of India, say, “If you want to be happy, be giving.” If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Senior Center, we ask that you make all checks and money orders payable to: THE TOWN OF UXBRIDGE. Monetary donations, payable to the Town of Uxbridge, will be deposited weekly into our donations and gift account. Please know that your donations will be used to help fund our transportation services, educational programs, and special events offered only at the Senior Center.

If you would like to make a donation to our 501 c 3 non-profit “Friends Group”, please make your check payable to: The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc. If you have any questions about how to make donations to the Uxbridge Senior Center please do not hesitate to call me at 508-278-8622.

**COMPUTER CORNER**

Beginning in January 2008 we will be offering computer classes in Excel, Word and Internet. Classes are very small and geared to meet your personal needs. We welcome Kris Koehler, Excel Instructor to our lineup this winter. Kris will be with us for a short time so we hope if you are interested in learning Excel basics you sign up early. Classes will begin on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and run for six weeks through mid February. Classes begin at 3:30 pm and run for about one hour. Call 508-278-8622 to enroll in Excel, Word or Internet. Remember, computer classes are free of charge. If you are able to make a weekly donation to help cover the costs of our computer classes, we suggest a donation of \$5 per class each week.

## **February 2008 –Events**

### **Pitch Party Every Monday Night:**

February 4, 11, 25. No Pitch on Mon., February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Center is closed in observance of President's Day. Pitch begins @ 6:30 PM ~ \$2 donation.

### **Sun., Feb. 3rd:**

7:00 PM UNNC Craft Night

### **Mon. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>:**

12:00 Noon – Deadline to apply for absentee Ballots for Presidential primary.

### **Tues. Feb 5<sup>th</sup>:**

Presidential Primary – Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. @ High School.

### **Tues., Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>:**

NAMI Support Group meets @ Senior Center @ 7:00 pm. This group is for individuals and family members caring for people with mental illness and not recommended for individuals with mental illness.

### **Thurs., Feb., 7<sup>th</sup>:**

Walmart Shopping pickup begins @ 8:30 A

### **Thurs., Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>:**

11:30 AM ***Lunch and Learn*** The Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee

### **Sun., Feb. 10th:**

7 PM UNNC Financial Planning Business Meeting

### **Tues., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>:**

5 PM COA Board Meeting

### **Thurs. Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>:**

11:30 AM **Valentine's Day Party** – Special Musical program with the Children from Taft School.

### **Mon., Feb 18<sup>th</sup>:**

Center Closed in observance of President's Day

### **Tues., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>:**

11:30 AM - VNA Blood pressure and vital sign clinic

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha E. Petrillo, Director